

A reappraisal of the type specimens of *Brachypodius immaculatus* Sharpe, 1876 (Pycnonotidae)

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Received 27 September 2000

A thorough review of the scientific names given to Asian birds, and an attempt to locate relevant type specimens, is being conducted to provide a firm basis for future taxonomic studies. This review is all destined for a new series entitled "Systematic Notes on Asian Birds", published in discrete issues of *Zoologische Verhandelingen*, Leiden. The first examples of papers on the type material of Asian taxa have appeared (Dekker *et al.*, 2000; Dickinson *et al.* 2000). An example of the relevance of such detailed work is the reminder (Decker *et al.* 2000), that the name *caudacuta* from the combination *Calyptomina* [sic] *caudacuta* Swainson, 1838, must be used for the Malay peninsula race of *Calyptomena viridis* Raffles, 1822, the Green Broadbill, this name having many years priority over *Calyptomena viridis continentis* Robinson & Kloss, 1923.

In preparation for a forthcoming paper on the family Pycnonotidae one of us noted that Sharpe (1876) appeared to list only one specimen of his new *Brachypodius immaculatus*, the Black-headed Bulbul, which he separated from "true *melanocephalus* from Malacca".

Brachypodius immaculatus Sharpe, 1876, is a junior synonym of *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps* (Temminck, 1822) of which *Lanius melanocephalus* Gmelin, 1788, is a senior synonym but preoccupied (Deignan 1960). Sharpe's name had been too long in synonymy for it to be listed in Deignan's synonymy, which was required to complement not duplicate that given in the *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum*.

The one specimen Sharpe seems to discuss had been collected by Everett from Sibiu in Sarawak. By contrast Sharpe (1881), who had by now submerged his *immaculatus* in *Micropus melanocephalus*, indicated that an adult Sumatran bird collected by Wallace was the type of *immaculatus*, despite listing Everett's specimen as one deserving the same name.

The purpose of this note is to record what we believe to have been the intent and process followed by Sharpe. In so doing we clarify the status of the specimens concerned.

It is apparent from the original description that the Sibiu bird (now BMNH 1875.8.16.19) was considered an immature and that Sharpe (1876) described the adult. It is also clear that the adult or adults described were from Sumatra, although the Sarawak bird was also assigned to this new form. No adult type was specified and indeed no adult specimens were listed, but the description is suffixed by the words "(Sumatra, Wallace)", so it can only be presumed that Sharpe (1876) reviewed Wallace's Sumatran specimens then in the British Museum. Of the specimens listed by Sharpe

(1881, p. 66) only “k.” and “l.” qualify under this heading. No holotype was made clear. Nothing on the labels suggests that one was selected but never published. By not specifying a holotype Sharpe (1876) effectively made these two his syntypes.

Sharpe (1881) listed specimen “l.” as “type of *Brachypodius immaculatus*”. Under the term of Art. 74.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), this must be taken to be the designation of a lectotype and specimen “l.” (BMNH1873.5.12.2463), previously segregated and listed by Warren & Harrison (1971) was the subject of that designation. Specimen “k.” (BMNH 1873.5.12.12) becomes a paralectotype. The specimen from Sibuluan, Sarawak, does not have type status, *contra* Warren & Harrison (1971), as by definition Sharpe excluded it by providing a deliberate description only of the adult.

Acknowledgement

We should like to thank Robert Prŷs-Jones for reading a draft of this paper and offering comments.

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